Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 04773 051519Z ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 AF-10 SS-15 IO-13 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSC-05 ISO-00 /069 W

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P R 051450Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5138
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

SECRET ADDIS ABABA 4773

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: CVIS SREF ET

SUBJECT: MEMBERS OF ETHIOPIAN ROYAL FAMILY

REF: A) STOCKHOLM 3244, B) STOCKHOLM 3229

1. NEWS THAT FLIGHT OF ROYAL FAMILY CHILDREN FROM ETHIOPIA IS PUBLIC INFORMATION SUGGESTS EVEN MORE STRONGLY TO US THAT NOW IS NOT RPT NOT TIME FOR US TO BE FACILITATING QUICK AND QUIET ENTRY OF CHILDREN INTO U.S. AS SUGGESTED REFTEL (A). INDEED WE AGREE WITH STOCKHOLM THAT CASE WILL NOW ATTRACT INCREASING ATTENTION FROM MEDIA AND OTHERS AND PRESUME AS RESULT THAT QUIET ENTRY INTO U.S. IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE.

2. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER EPMG, NOW THAT MATTER IS PUBLIC, WILL FEEL ITSELF COMPELLED TO REACT, NOR DO WE KNOW FOR SURE WHETHER THEY HAVE YET PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER AND CONNECTED COLLINSES WITH FLIGHT OF CHILDREN. SOONER OR LATER EPMG WILL MAKE THAT CONNECTION, INDEED IF PRESS FINDS IT OUT, CONNECTION WILL BE MADE FOR THEM. IF WE SECRET

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 04773 051519Z

NOW TAKE QUICK ACTION TO FACILITATE ENTRY INTO U.S., THEREFORE, WE RISK BEING ACCUSED HERE OF COMPLICITY WITH COLLINS. IF ON OTHER HAND, DESPITE COLLINS CONNECTION, WE DISSOCIATE OURSELVES FROM COLLINS BY LEAVING MATTER IN UNHCR OR ANYONE ELSE'S HANDS AT LEAST FOR NOW, ANY EPMG SUSPICION DIRECTED OUR WAY HAS SOME CHANGE OF BEING MUTED.

- 3. WHETHER COLLINS CONNECTION WILL HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON MISSIONARIES HERE AND ESPECIALLY AMERICAN MISSIONARIES, WE DO NOT KNOW. COLLINS HAS TOLD STOCKHOLM THAT ALL OF THEIR BAPTIST GROUP ARE OUT OF ETHIOPIA AND WE BELIEVE THIS IS TURE. UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF OTHER MISSIONARIES OF A VARIETY OF NATIONALITIES AND DENOMINATIONS HERE, AND EPMG IS NOT ALWAYS SO CAREFUL IN DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN ONE OR ANOTHER.
- 4. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, IF ENTRY INTO STATES IS INEVITABLE, WE STILL MUCH PREFER APPROACH DEPT HAS TAKEN. DELAY WILL AT LEAST GIVE US CHANCE TO GAUGE REACTION HERE AND TEST WATERS. IT MAY ALSO ALLOW PUBLICITY TO BLOW OVER AND MAKE IT EASIER FOR EPMG EVENTUALLY TO ACCEPT THEIR ENTRY INTO U.S. MOREOVER WELFARE OF CHILDREN IS APPARENTLY ASSKRED -- WE SEE NO IMMEDIATE HUMANITARIAN NEED FOR THEM TO LEAVE SWEDEN, AND ACCORDINGLY SEE NO REASON TO BE STAMPEDED INTO DOING THINGS BY COLLINSES WHOSE JUDGMENTS OF SITUATION HERE AND WHOSE MOTIVATIONS AND CONCERNS DO NOT NECESSARILY ACCORD WITH OURS. NOR DO WE AGREE WITH STOCKHOLM THAT U.S. RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA ET AL SHOULD BE DETERMINING POLITICAL ELEMENT.

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